DC

6

WONDER WOMAN™

KING
SAMPERE
MOREY

ALSO FEATURING

TRINITY

KING - ORTEGA - SÁNCHEZ

DAWN OF DC

13+
TEEN

MONSTER MEN STRIKE FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

THE BAT-MAN
FIRST KNIGHT

DAN JURGENS MIKE PERKINS

A CHILLING BAT-MAN ADVENTURE SET IN THE YEAR 1939

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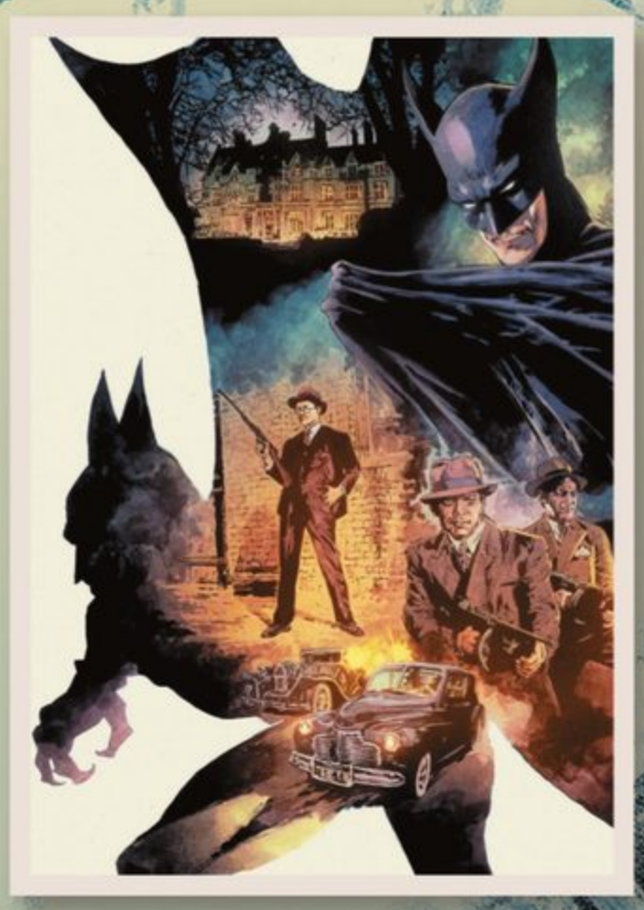
AS TOLD BY...

WRITER
DAN JURGENS

ARTIST
MIKE PERKINS



MAIN COVER BY MIKE PERKINS

DC BLACK LABEL

AGES 17+

MARCH

THOUGH I HATE TO RISK YOUR FRUSTRATION, WE MUST AT SOME MOMENT DISCUSS COLONEL STEVEN TREVOR.

YOU ARE ALL RIGHT?

THE SOLDIER HAD LIVED HIS LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF HIS BETTER AND IS THEREFORE OFTEN PRESUMED TO EMIT NO LIGHT OF HIS OWN.

HOWEVER, IF YOU EXAMINE HIS RECORD, AS WE CERTAINLY HAD, YOU SEE THAT BEING SECOND TO WONDER WOMAN DOES NOT NECESSITATE THAT YOU ARE SECOND TO ANYONE ELSE.

YEAH, SORRY. JUST A *HEADACHE.*

I DRINK TOO MUCH *COFFEE* EVERY DAY. THEN TODAY I *DIDN'T*, I GUESS. IT'S NOTHING, DON'T WORRY.

IS *THIS* WHY YOU CALLED ME *HERE?*

SO WE MIGHT GET MORE *COFFEE* TOGETHER?

HE WAS A WILLFUL MAN WHO POSSESSED MANY *UNDERRATED* TALENTS.

I'M *FINE...*

...BUT I...I CAN'T REMEMBER... SOMETHING...

WHICH IS WHY IT TOOK A HULKING EFFORT TO OVERCOME THE MANY BARRIERS HE HAD CONSTRUCTED IN HIS MIND TO DEFEND HIMSELF FROM A POSSIBLE INCURSION.

MORE, YOU @$%# MASKED DOLT! *NOW!*

HE IS *COUNTERING!* YOUR TRIANGLE BETTER BE WHAT STEEL *@&#$* SAYS IT IS!

WHY...

WHY *DID* I ASK YOU... TO MEET ME... HERE...

NO...

STEVEN?!

WHAT *IS* IT? WHAT IS *WRONG*?

ARE YOU IN *PAIN*?

I... TRIED...IT'S MORE...I'M... SORRY...

WHEN COULD... HE...*HE*...CAN'T DO THIS...NO, THEY...*THEY*...

WONDER WOMAN...THEY... THEY...THEY...

WHO? *STEVEN*, PLEASE.

I DO *NOT* UNDERSTAND. WHO IS "*THEY*"?

THEY... TH-THEY...

...THEY...

KNOCK

...THEY'RE HERE.

HOW AND WHY DOES ONE BURY A GIANT?

PERHAPS NOT AN ETERNAL QUESTION, MY DEAR.

BUT CERTAINLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS NARRATIVE, A PERTINENT ONE.

KRRNCK

KRRNCK

THE **WHY** FIRST.

FOR PROPER ADVANTAGE, WE REQUIRED THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE; **GIGANTA** NEEDED TO BE AT HER FULL HEIGHT AT THE MOMENT OF IMPACT.

HAVING HER APPROACH AND GROW JUST WOULD NOT DO.

AS FOR THE **HOW?**

WE ARE IF NOTHING ELSE A HUMBLE RULER, AND SO WE HUMBLED OURSELVES AND ASKED THE WITCH **CIRCE** WHAT COULD BE DONE TO ACHIEVE SUCH A JOUNCE.

SHE INSISTED THAT THERE WERE EVILS ENTOMBED AT THE HEART OF OUR CAPITAL THAT WOULD MAKE BURIAL BOTH APPROPRIATE AND POSSIBLE.

WHETHER THIS IS TRUE, WE DID NOT QUESTION. WITCHES OFTEN LIE, AND CALLING OUT SUCH GAMES WASTES YEARS AND WORDS.

AND THAT DAY, WE WERE CONCERNED ONLY WITH RESULTS.

FOR IT WAS PAST TIME FOR YOUR MOTHER TO TASTE OUR **WRATH.**

AND HOW DID SHE RESPOND?

THOUGH HER LOVE LAY FALLOW AT HER FEET...

...THOUGH THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WAS TURNED AGAINST HER...THOUGH A GIANT CHALLENGED HER...

...SHE DID NOT HESITATE.

AS WITH MANY A WOMAN BEFORE HER, SHE WAS NOT GRANTED TIME TO CONSIDER OR REST.

HERE WAS DANGER.

AND HERE WAS SHE.

THE AMAZON STEELED FOR THE FIGHT.

KRACK

LITTLE GIRL.

I DON'T NEED *TALK.*

I KNOW YOU ***VERY*** WELL, DORIS. YOU UNDERSTAND, I DO NOT ***ENJOY*** GIVING YOU THE ***PAIN*** THAT MUST COME OF THIS.

I WOULD ***HOPE*** YOU MIGHT PREFER ***WORDS.***

WORDS? HEH.

WORDS ARE ***CIVILIZED,*** WONDER WOMAN.

YOU. ME. WE ARE ***ANIMALS.*** SAVAGE. ***BRUTAL.***

GIGANTA!

THIS FOOLERY WE DO IS ***FAMILIAR,*** IS IT NOT?

PLEASE, WHY NOT ***CONCEDE*** NOW AND AVOID YOUR ***FALL?!***

BY HERA, HOW I WISH YOU WERE MISTAKEN.

WONDER WOMAN IS NOT PREDICTABLE IN HER ACTIONS BUT IN HER NATURE.

SHE ABHORS VIOLENCE AND, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, SEEKS TO MINIMIZE IT.

THEREFORE, SHE OFTEN STRIKES AT THE HEART OF AN OPPONENT IN ORDER TO END ANY MELEE AS QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

IN THIS INSTANCE, SHE THREW HER LASSO AROUND GIGANTA'S NECK, AND GRACEFULLY FLIPPED OVER THE LEVIATHAN'S HEAD.

HOPING NO DOUBT TO COME DOWN PEACEFULLY ON THE OTHER SIDE USING HER WEIGHT AND STRENGTH TO PULL HER ANTAGONIST WITH HER.

TO SLAM THE GIANT INTO THE MANICURED GRASS OF OUR NATION'S CAPITAL.

CRACKKK

IT WAS A GALLANT, MERCIFUL PLAN.

ONLY FLAWED IN ITS LACK OF ANTICIPATION OF A HIGHER POWER.

BY WHICH I MEAN, OF COURSE, OUR OWN.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE.

YOU GOT TO *STOP!*

YOU HAVE TO *RUN* AWAY, OKAY? GO AND I'LL *MEET* YOU THERE, WHEREVER YOU WANT, *WHENEVER,* Y'KNOW, SOON, OKAY?

AND *WE* CAN RUN AWAY TOGETHER. WE CAN *BE* TOGETHER, AND IT'LL BE *BETTER,* LIKE, SO, SO MUCH BETTER, YOU DON'T EVEN *KNOW.*

PLEASE, I NEED TO *SAVE* YOU. YOU'RE SO *PERFECT.*

SILVER SWAN.

TAKE YOUR HANDS *OFF* OF ME. *NOW.*

YOU @$#%% #%&#!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S *COMING!*

NOR, IT SEEMS, DO *YOU.*

POW

SILVER SWAN COULD NOT HONESTLY ASPIRE TO DEFEAT OR EVEN JUST MAIM WONDER WOMAN.

BLESSEDLY, THOUGH, THAT WAS NOT HER ROLE IN THIS.

NO, SHE WAS THERE TO DROP AND BE CAUGHT, AND IN THAT CATCHING TO DISTRACT.

YOU UNDERSTAND, WE ANTICIPATED THE AMAZON'S BELIEF THAT WE COULD, LIKE HER, HAVE PITY ON THE BIRD GIRL...

...AND THUS REFRAIN FROM BARBAROUS ACTIONS AT THAT VULNERABLE MOMENT.

ONE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT SHE WOULD HAVE LEARNED BY NOW THAT PITY IS FOR FOOLS WITH CAPS OF BELLS, NOT KINGS AND THEIR CROWNS.

CRACK

BUT ALAS, SHE ALWAYS ASSUMED THE BEST OF PEOPLE.

THAT EVEN THOSE WITH WHOM SHE SPARRED SHARED SOME MODICUM OF HER OWN LAMENTABLE HONOR.

AND SO SHE PLUMMETED TO THE EARTH.

PERHAPS CONTENT IN HER EMPATHY, BUT CERTAINLY BLIND TO REALITY.

A BATTERING OF THAT MAGNITUDE WOULD HAVE KILLED A GREAT MANY OF THE HEROES WHO SO UNHESITATINGLY CALL THEMSELVES **SUPER.**

SHE, HOWEVER, THOUGH PLAINLY RACKED, SURVIVED.

WHICH WAS NOT UNANTICIPATED. WE SCOFF AT EVEN THE IDEA OF QUICK AND CHEAP VICTORIES WHEN IT CONCERNS THIS ABHORRENT WOMAN.

NO, WE HAD NO ILLUSIONS THAT SHE MIGHT GO DOWN EASY, AS THEY SAY.

IT WAS ENOUGH THAT SHE WAS ON THE GROUND AND NOW SCRAMBLING.

TORN BETWEEN HER INSTINCT AS A WARRIOR AND HER SWORN OATH TO CARE FOR THOSE WHO COULD NOT CARE FOR THEMSELVES.

VANESSAZ!

FOR IN THAT MOMENT OF CONFUSION, HER OWN DUALITY TURNED AGAINST ITSELF, AS FLEETING AS IT WAS, WE HAD OPPORTUNITY.

DR. PSYCHO, AIDED BY THE POWER OF THE TRIANGLE, REACHED INTO HER MIND AND TOLD HER SIMPLY AND CLEARLY: STAND STILL.

AND SO GIGANTA-- BUOYED BY CIRCE'S MOST VIGOROUS MAGIC--

--HAD THE TIME TO REMOVE THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT FROM THE PODIUM WHERE IT HAD STOOD FOR A HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS.

EIGHTY THOUSAND TONS OF MOLDED MARBLE.

WHICH SHE THEN WHAPPED DOWN ON THE HEAD OF THE WOMAN OF WONDER.

KABOOM

SERGEANT STEEL REPORTED TO ME FROM HIS PERCH ON TOP OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

A DIRECT AND GHASTLY HIT.

HOW SUBLIME.

IT WAS NOT, HOWEVER, WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE FOR OUR SIDE OF THE WAR.

HER EFFORT IN SUPPORTING OUR CONQUEST HAD COST US THE USE OF CIRCE.

ZZZZZZZ

WHO APPARENTLY MORPHS INTO A SLEEPING CAT WHEN SHE IS TOO DEBILITATED TO BE A WITCH.

DR. PSYCHO HAD SIMILARLY COLLAPSED.

ALTHOUGH HE ONLY OCCUPIED THE PRINCESS'S MIND FOR A SECOND WHEN SHE WAS PARTICULARLY DISTRACTED AND VULNERABLE...

...ENCOUNTERING HER INTERNAL ARMAMENTS EVEN FOR THAT MINUSCULE MOMENT WAS ENOUGH TO ROT HIS REDOUBTABLE MIND.

GIGANTA REMAINED STANDING AT LEAST. TO HER CREDIT.

BUT HER DISABLEMENT WAS OBVIOUS.

AND HER CRUMBLING MORE IMMINENT THAN I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED.

AS FOR SILVER SWAN, UNDERNEATH ALL THAT RUBBLE...

WELL, SHE DID HER DUTY AND SHE DID IT WELL.

WHAT MORE CAN BE SAID?

IN FACT, WE WERE IN THE MIDST OF RAISING A GLASS TO HER SACRIFICE WHEN WE HEARD AGAIN FROM STEEL.

HE WAS UNFAILINGLY A TACITURN MAN, ONE OF HIS FEW CONGENIAL QUALITIES.

WITHOUT PREAMBLE OR EXPLANATION, HE SIMPLY CAME ON THE RADIO AND SAID, "SOVEREIGN..."

"IT AIN'T OVER."

IN RETROSPECT, OUR **STRENGTH** WAS OUR ERROR.

NNN.

WE HAD CORRECTLY ESTIMATED THAT A BLOW OF THIS VASTITUDE WOULD RENDER THE WOMAN UNCONSCIOUS AND DOCILE.

HOWEVER, AS NOTED, TO ACHIEVE SUCH A FINE AND UNEXPECTED WALLOP WE WERE FORCED TO DEPLOY THE SWAN AS A DECOY.

THUS, WHEN THE SURELY FATAL BLOW WAS DELIVERED, YOUR MOTHER WAS NOT ALONE BENEATH THE ONSLAUGHT.

NO, THE SHATTERED BIRD WAS THERE AS WELL.

AAAAAAHH!

TO SAVE HER FOE, SHE DEFIED ALL LIMITS.

RATHER THAN BEING DRIVEN INTO THE MUCK, SHE BRACED HERSELF, HER HANDS OUTSTRETCHED, HER FINGERS DRIVING INTO ROCK.

THE PRINCESS **CAUGHT** THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

THAT IS THE CURT EXPLANATION FOR HOW SHE SURVIVED.

AS FOR WHAT NEXT OCCURRED. HOW SHE PUSHED BACK.

HOW SHE THEN THREW THE OBELISK...

KKKRRRUUNCH

...AND FELLED OUR GIANT.

ALL WE CAN SAY ALL THESE YEARS LATER IS THAT SHE...

...SHE WAS **WONDER WOMAN.** AND THAT WAS QUITE ENOUGH.

IT WAS NOT OUR PREFERENCE TO TAKE THE NEXT NECESSARY STEP.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT, IF NOTHING ELSE.

FROM THE BEGINNING, OUR GOAL WAS **HUMILIATION.**

WE WISHED TO SEE YOUR MOTHER BOWED BEFORE US, POLITELY KISSING THE CRUMBS OFF OUR ROYAL TOES.

PLAN G, YOUR HIGHNESS?

WE DID NOT DESIRE HER DEATH. THERE WAS TOO MUCH RISK IN HER MARTYRDOM.

AS HAS BEEN HISTORICALLY ESTABLISHED, THE DEAD CAN OVERTHROW AN EMPIRE THE LIVING COULD HARDLY TOUCH.

DAMN IT ALL!

WE NEEDED SOME RESTRAINT, WHICH WAS POSSIBLE, YOU UNDERSTAND, BECAUSE FOR ALL THEIR MADNESS, WE HAD CONTROL OVER THE OTHERS.

OR WE COULD ***RETREAT.*** MONTANA ***ALL*** OVER AGAIN.

THROUGH A HARDY COMBINATION OF BRIBERY, BLACKMAIL, AND THREATS, WE COMMANDED THEIR PERFORMANCE.

NO, NO, NO, WE SHALL NOT ***SURRENDER.*** NOT AGAIN. ***NEVER*** AGAIN. NOT ON THE SOIL OF OUR ***GRANDFATHERS*** AND ***THEIR*** GRANDFATHERS.

NO.

SEND IN ***THE GOD.***

BUT HER...

GREAT HERA...

THE DAUGHTER OF DARKSEID IS NOT TO BE COMMANDED.

DIANA.

SHE IS ONLY TO BE WORSHIPPED.

AND FEARED.

GRAIL.

YOUR SWORD?

ABANDONED.

AH.

I AM SORRY TO BE SO UNPREPARED.

DO NOT *FRET*, YOU POOR THING.

I WILL FIND *OTHER* WAYS TO *BLEED* YOU.

BAM

THE BATTLE OF WONDER WOMAN AND GRAIL ON THE MALL OF WASHINGTON, D.C., HAS SLIPPED FROM FACT TO LEGEND TO MYTH.

MANY A LIAR HAS DINED OFF OF STORIES OF WHAT THEY SUPPOSEDLY WITNESSED THAT DAY.

THERE ARE STILL THOSE WHO WERE AS FAR AWAY AS COLLEGE PARK AND McLEAN WHO CLAIM TO HAVE HEARD THE ECHOES OF THE STRIKES THESE TWO WARRIORS EXCHANGED.

QUITE A FEW SENATORS HAVE REGALED THEIR CONSTITUENTS WITH FISH TALES OF HAVING WATCHED THE TWO WOMEN GRAPPLE FROM THE BALCONY OF THE CAPITOL.

ONLY CHIVALRY HELD THEM BACK FROM INTERFERING, THEY'LL GLADLY TELL YOU AS THEY ASK FOR A DONATION OR TWO.

POW

AND PERHAPS MOST NOTORIOUSLY THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD, SO TO SPEAK, DESCRIBED HIS OWN OBSERVATION OF THE EVENTS IN HIS INFAMOUS "SAVAGE IS THE FEMALE" SPEECH.

ONE WE HAPPENED TO WRITE FOR HIM, WHICH HE RECITED PERFUNCTORILY, LOSING SOME OF THE POETRY OF OUR PROSE.

IN TRUTH, THOUGH, TO HIDE OUR PURPOSES, WE HAD CIRCE CLEAR MUCH OF THE MALL EARLIER THAT MORNING.

AND THE TWO WOMEN FOUGHT ALONE AND UNSEEN.

WHAT PASSED BETWEEN THESE NOBLE COMBATANTS, THE ANGUISH AND THE TRIUMPH, WAS KNOWN ONLY TO THEM.

AND AS WELL AS WE ARE AWARE, NEITHER SPOKE OF IT AGAIN.

YET STILL, FOR YOU, **TRINITY**, WE DO NOT MIND ASSERTING SOME COMMON SPECULATIONS AS TO HOW THE BATTLE PROGRESSED.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY THAT AT THE BEGINNING, THEY WERE EVENLY MATCHED.

PERHAPS IN THEIR BEST CONDITION, YES.

BUT YOUR MOTHER HAD JUST HAD THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT UNCEREMONIOUSLY TOSSED UPON HER...

...WHILE **GRAIL** WAS FRESH AND EAGER. AT HER PEAK, IF YOU WILL.

THUS, ONE WOMAN BEGAN THE RACE LENGTHS AHEAD OF THE OTHER.

THAT SAID, YOU WHO WERE RAISED BY HER KNOW PERHAPS EVEN BETTER THAN WE...

...DIANA, PRINCESS OF THE AMAZONS, TESTED AND PROVEN, WAS NOT A WOMAN UNACCUSTOMED TO STARTING FROM BEHIND.

NO, IF ANYTHING, WE'D SAY SHE PREFERRED TO SEE HER OPPONENT AHEAD OF HER.

TO KNOW HOW MUCH OF HER SOUL SHE WOULD NEED TO BURN TO OVERCOME THEIR ADVANTAGE.

WE IMAGINE IT DID NOT TAKE LONG, THEN, FOR THE PRINCESS TO FIND HERSELF ON FAIR AND EVEN GROUND WITH THE GOD.

AT THAT POINT, IT BECAME A MATTER OF WILL.

OF WHOSE UPBRINGING COULD COMPEL THEM TO GO LONGER, TO ENDURE TO THE POINT WHERE THEY MIGHT CAPTURE THE OTHER'S BELT.

THE DAUGHTER OF PARADISE.

OR THE DAUGHTER OF APOKOLIPS.

THE AGONY OF BOTH WOULD HAVE BEEN ACUTE.

HEARING THE CROAKED SNAP OF THEIR OWN BONES BREAKING.

THE INFLAMED CHURN UNDER THEIR SKIN AS MUSCLES STRETCHED, RIPPED, AND SPOOLED BACK INTO THEIR LIMBS.

THEY WERE UNDOUBTEDLY PRESENTED WITH THE PALPABLE TEMPTATION TO SURRENDER.

JUST STOP, JUST LET YOUR FISTS DOWN, LET HER FISTS IN.

GO DOWN, GO UNDER, BE WARM, BE CONTENT.

AND YET STILL THEY FOUGHT ON.

TO LET THE EMPTY BLACK OF DEATH RELIEVE THEM OF THE BURDEN OF OVERWHELMING ANGUISH.

FALL.

IT LASTED ALMOST AN HOUR.

AN UNTHINKABLE AMOUNT OF TIME FOR TWO WOMEN TO BASH AT ONE ANOTHER WITH KNUCKLES CAPABLE OF RENDING MOUNTAINS.

AND AT ITS END, YOUR MOTHER WAS ON HER KNEES.

I HAD... HEARD *TELL* YOU...YOU TOO...HAD SOME...A *DIVINE* FATHER...

...BUT...I... I SEE YOU *ARE*... WHAT THEY...*ALWAYS* SAID...YOU WERE...

GRAIL RAISED HER BLOODSTAINED BLADE ONE FINAL TIME.

...NOTHING... BUT...*DIRT*...

AAAAAAH!

AND AT LAST DELIVERED **DEATH.**

NO...NOT DIRT... *CLAY*...

...THEY... THEY SAY... MOTHER...MADE ME FROM... WATER...AND CLAY...

...AND... AND...

OR SO IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WITH ANOTHER HERO.

BUT SHE, MY DEAR, WAS NEVER SIMPLY ANOTHER HERO.

...HOPE.

YOU ARE NOTHING! LOOK AT YOU!

ACCEPT THAT YOU ARE DEFEATED!

AND DIE!

THE SECOND-OLDEST STORY TOLD IS OF GODS CLASHING.

DECIDING THE FATES OF WORLDS WITH THEIR MUSCLES AND METTLE.

NO THANK YOU!

NNNN!

AND THE OLDEST?

NEVER WRITTEN IN STONE OR INK BUT PASSED DOWN GENERATION TO GENERATION THROUGH THE WHISPERS OF MOTHERS TO THEIR DAUGHTERS.

IT IS THE TALE OF A WOMAN PUSHED TO THE GROUND.

HOW SHE ROSE AGAIN.

WONDER WOMAN HAD OVERCOME THE DOCTOR AND THE TRIANGLE.

SHE HAD OUTLASTED THE WITCH AND SAVED THE SWAN.

SHE HAD FELLED THE GIANT AND DEFEATED THE GOD.

AND SHE WAS **DONE.**

AND SHE WAS **OURS.**

DC Comics Presents

WONDER WOMAN: OUTLAW FINALE

TOM KING writer
DANIEL SAMPERE artist
TOMEU MOREY colorist
CLAYTON COWLES letterer

SAMPERE & MOREY cover
JULIAN TOTINO TEDESCO; JEFF SPOKES;
KEVIN WADA variant covers
NIKOLAS DRAPER-IVEY Black History Month variant

CHRIS ROSA assoc. editor
BRITTANY HOLZHERR editor
PAUL KAMINSKI group editor

WONDER WOMAN created by
WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

OR SO SHE HAD US BELIEVE, THE CLEVER GIRL.

AS SHE TOOK ONE MORE STEP TOWARD OUR INESCAPABLE DEBASEMENT.

DEAR GOD, WHAT A **FOOL** WERE WE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN WONDER WOMAN #8 AS WE TAKE A BREAK NEXT ISSUE FOR WONDER WOMAN, SUPERMAN, AND THE SPACE MALL.

"THERE. SHE'S ***FINALLY*** DOWN.

"READ TO HER, TOLD HER A ***STORY,*** TUCKED HER IN, TOLD HER ***ANOTHER*** STORY, CHECKED THE HALLWAY FOR VAMPIRES, TOLD HER ***ANOTHER*** STORY, SAT WITH HER...

"...TAKES LESS EFFORT TO KNOCK OUT ***DOOMSDAY.***

ANYWAY, WHAT'RE WE ***WATCHING?***

THE ***KNIGHTS*** GAME STILL GOING? ANY CHANCE THEY'RE LOSING BY LESS THAN ***THIRTY?***

THESE ARE ***SURVEILLANCE*** CAMERAS THROUGHOUT ***GOTHAM,*** THE MOST ***CRIME-RIDDEN*** LOCALES.

FATHER CUT THIS FEED OUT OF SOME ***PATHETIC*** THEORETICAL PRIVACY CONCERNS.

FORTUNATELY, I WAS ABLE TO ***REPAIR*** THE DAMAGE WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF HIS ***SUPERVISION.***

AH. AN ***ILLEGAL,*** CITYWIDE SPYING OPERATION. ISN'T THAT JUST ***PEACHY.***

WELL... DO YOU ***MIND*** TURNING IT TO THE GAME?

BEFORE THE ***JOURNALIST*** HALF OF ME KICKS IN AND I HAVE TO ***EXPOSE*** THIS ENTIRE EVIL SCHEME OF YOURS TO THE WORLD?

WHEN ***FATHER*** IS ON PATROL, ***I*** MAY STILL BE NEEDED.

NOT ***EVERYONE*** HAS THE LUXURY OF SITTING AROUND LAZILY RELYING ON ***UNEARNED*** ABILITIES TO ALERT THEM TO DANGER.

UNEARNED?! WHAT IS THAT? THAT A ***CRACK?*** WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR ***WHOLE*** LIFE IS?

THE ONLY PERSON ON EARTH ***RICHER*** THAN YOUR FATHER IS YOUR ***MOTHER.***

OH, RIGHT, YEAH, 'CAUSE THE SON OF ***COAL-TO-DIAMOND MAN*** WAS RAISED IN SUCH ***DIRE*** POVERTY! POOR, POOR YOU!

MUST BE ***ROUGH*** TO HAVE BOTH OF YOUR PARENTS' ATTENTION AND NOT HAVE TO SHARE WITH ***FOUR TO SIXTEEN*** OTHER SIBLINGS.

EXCUSE ME, I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T SLEEEEEEEP AT ALLLLLLLL.

WILL YOU TELL ME A ***STORY?***

"SO, *UH*, HE, *UHM*, DEFEATED LIKE EVERYBODY, AND THEY WERE ALL DEFEATED AND ALL OVER THE PLACE.

"AND THEN HE WAS LIKE..."

I'M ***DARKSEID***, AND I TOTALLY ***DEFEATED*** YOU AND YOU CAN'T EVEN ***TRY*** TO DEFEAT ME!

NONE OF YOU ARE WORTHY OF FIGHTING ***ME*** OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT! BECAUSE YOU ***SUCK!***

AND I HAVE A ***MATH THING*** OR SOMETHING! WHATEVER! YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

"AND THEN OUR HERO. ***ROBIN.*** OBVIOUSLY.

"HE'S THERE AND HE'S ALL..."

=TT=

WELL, I'M ***ROBIN.*** AS IN ***THE ROBIN.*** NO ***BATMAN*** REQUIRED.

SO...YOU KNOW WHAT ***THAT*** MEANS? YEAH, I THINK ***YOU*** DO.

"AND DARKSEID JUST...HE'S LIKE..."

HOLY @$%#!

I MEAN... *UH*, HOLY... I DON'T KNOW... ***MOLY?*** WHATEVER ***MOLY*** IS.

HOLY MOLY! NO, NOT ***ROBIN!*** HE'S THE ***LITERAL*** BEST. DO YOU KNOW WHAT ***LITERAL*** MEANS? NEVER MIND, WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER. GO TO SLEEP.

ANYWAY, ***I*** GIVE UP.

HE SAID.

AND THAT'S HOW THE "FINAL CRISIS" ***REALLY*** ENDED.

TRUE STORY. LOOK IT UP.

AND SHE'S *DOWN!*

I WOULD TELL YOU I, ***DAMIAN WAYNE,*** AM THE GREATEST...BUT NEEDLESS REDUNDANCY IS NOT ***PARTICULARLY*** WORTH MY TIME.

I WILL SIMPLY SAY ***I*** WIN, YOU ***LOSE,*** ***I'M*** THE BEST, ***YOU'RE*** A LOSER. THE END.

AND COACH **CAMPBELL** DECIDES TO GO FOR IT ON FOURTH AND NINE AT HIS OWN 23!

SHE'S BEHIND YOU.

*HECK OF A GAMBLE HERE IN THE **FIRST** QUARTER.*

AND I HEARD YOUR WHOLE ***FINAL CRISIS*** STORY.

THAT IS NOT AT ***ALL*** HOW THE FINAL CRISIS ENDED. YOU LEFT OUT ***ALL*** THE SINGING.

=SIGH=

EXCUSE ME, I'M SORRY...

LET'S SEE HOW IT PLAYS OUT AS CAMPBELL'S HANDPICKED QUARTERBACK PULLS BACK.

I'M SCARED OF ***DARKSEID.***

I THINK HE'S IN MY ***CLOSET.***

DARKSEID IS ***NOT*** IN YOUR ***CLOSET.***

GO TO ***SLEEP.***

FUMBLE! BALL IS OUT!

BLITZ COMING.

HE ***IS*** IN MY CLOSET!

AND HE HAS ***MATH!***

DISASTER FOR THE KNIGHTS!

WHAT IF WE... GO SOMEWHERE... WEAR HER OUT SOME...

WE SHOULD GO TO THE MOON.

GO WHERE? LIKE ICE CREAM?

ICE CREAM. YES, JON, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE HER SUGAR TO MAKE HER SLEEP.

I'D SAY THE S STANDS FOR SCHNOOK, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU CAN SPELL THAT HIGH.

THE MOON IS A GOOD PLACE TO GO.

YOU JUST WANT TO TAKE HER OUT AND PUNCH SOME POOR GUY IN HIS POOR FACE, LIKE LAST TIME!

TO A HAMMER, EVERYTHING'S A NAIL. TO A ROBIN, EVERYTHING'S AN ARKHAM ESCAPEE!

I HAVE AN ACTUAL IDEA THAT WOULD DO [illegible] THINGS AT ONCE, JUSTICE PLUS SLEEP. YOU MOCK IT BECAUSE YOU WANT [illegible] THE WONDER CHILD WITH THE ONLY [illegible] MORE VANILLA THAN YOU...ACTUA @$%#@$ VANILLA!

I WANT TO GO TO THE MOON!

[illegible]RY MY DEFINITION OF INTERESTING DOESN'T [illegible]E SITTING ON GARGOYLES AND CONTEMPLATING [illegible]ING OF DEATH AND LOSS FOR THE 37TH TIME! [illegible] STATUES USED TO BE ALIVE AND CHOSE STONE OVER LISTENING TO YOUR INCESSANT WHINING AGAIN?!

DIANA SAID WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GET HER DOWN BY *EIGHT.*

WHAT *TIME* IS IT NOW?

WELL, LET'S *SEE*...IF IT'S *ONE* IN THE MORNING IN *GOTHAM*...

...I BELIEVE... ON THE *MOON* IT'S...

...WE'RE- SO-@$%@&# O'CLOCK.

DID YOU CHECK THE *CLOSET*?

WAS *DARKSEID* THERE?

YES.

NO.

WAS THERE ANY *MATH*?!

NO MATH. CHECKED *TWICE* FOR MATH.

PHEW.

GOOD NIGHT, *LIZZIE PRINCE*.

=YAWN= GOOD NIGHT, DAMIAN. =YAWN= I *LOVE* YOU.

YOU...

...WHAT?

I *LOVE* YOU. YOU'RE MY *BROTHER*. I *LOVE* YOU. GOOD *NIGHT*.

I, UHM...

...I LOVE, UH, YOU, UH, LOVE YOU TOO. LIZ.

YEAH.

MMM.

DAMIAN... =YAWN=...

...WHAT'S *MATH* LOOK LIKE?

DEAR LORD!

GO TO *SLEEP*!

I DID IT, JONATHAN. THE *LEVIATHAN* HAS BEEN BESTED.

SHE'S... ACTUALLY... REALLY =YAWN= *ASLEEP.*

I'M THE *BEST* =YAWN= AT =YAWN=...

WHAT =YAWN= WHAT'S THE WORLD'S *GREATEST* DETECTIVE COMPARED TO THE WORLD'S *GREATEST* BABYSITTER?!

AH, I SEE *YOU* HAVE =YAWN= *SUCCUMBED* TO THE NIGHT.

THAT'S THE... THE PROBLEM WITH YOU SUPERPEOPLE. =YAWN=

YOU THINK =YAWN= EVERYTHING *BAD* HAPPENS IN...

...THE DAYTIME...

=TT=

DC COMICS PRESENTS

"WORLD'S FINEST"

PART 4

TOM KING WRITER · BELÉN ORTEGA ARTIST
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RED HOOD: OUTLAWS

volume ONE

It's an ill-fated road to redemption as the Outlaws try to go legit... and fail spectacularly.

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WRITTEN BY
Patrick R. Young

DRAWN BY
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Don't miss
Red Hood: Outlaws Volume Two
in July!

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

THE BAT-MAN FIRST KNIGHT

DAN JURGENS MIKE PERKINS

INTERVIEW WITH DAN JURGENS

Legendary writer Dan Jurgens and superstar artist Mike Perkins take the Caped Crusader back to his roots in *The Bat-Man: First Knight* from DC Black Label. Set in Batman's debut year of 1939, this three-issue Prestige Plus format series takes Batman on a noir-inspired case that defies all known science. DC Nation sat down with Dan Jurgens to discuss writing the series.

What inspired telling a Batman story set in the year that Batman first debuted?

I've always been a fan of that era, as it's filled with incredible change, tragedy, and atmosphere. There's something tremendously compelling about Batman's early appearances and the way the stories reflect the era. We're using that period to frame Batman in a very particular way.

Which classic Batman stories did you research to prepare to write this series?

This story takes place during the Bat-Man's first few appearances in *Detective Comics*. In our story, Bruce Wayne has only been the Bat-Man for a few weeks. It's very new for him and he's questioning himself throughout the process. So we use the era, environment, and tone of his earliest stories as our inspiration.

What are some of the differences between this Bat-Man and the contemporary Batman?

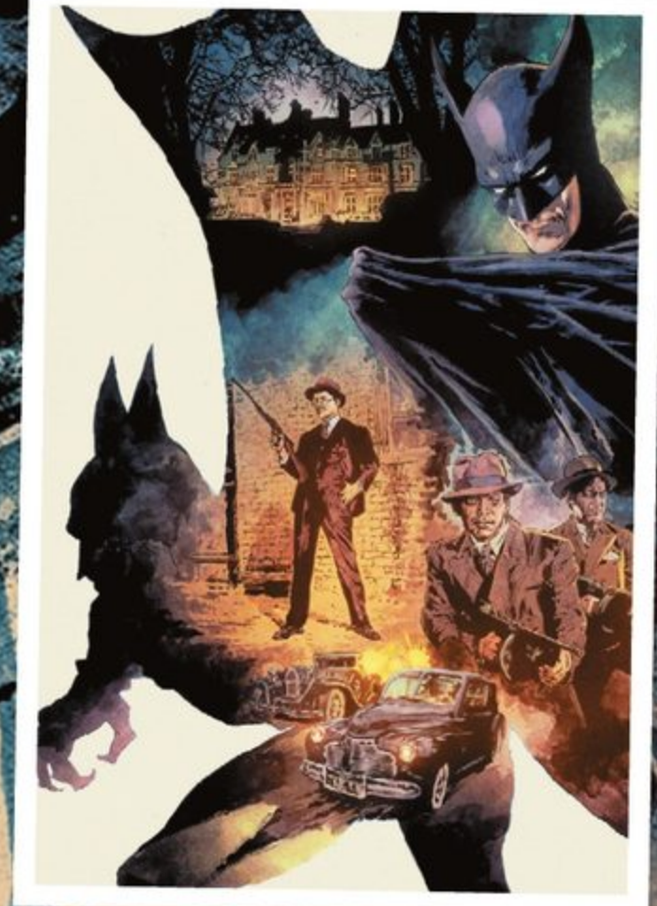
We have gotten to the point where Batman is almost impossibly capable, utilizing an array of devices and tech at his fingertips. Our Bat-Man is just the opposite. At this point, there is no Batcave. He has several cars, a garage, and a grasp of forensic science as it existed at the time.

What has it been like writing a story for DC Black Label and using the freedom offered by it?

I love that DC Black Label offers the chance to focus on the thematic elements. Also, with the larger page count, we can slow the story down a bit to explore things in depth. It also gives Mike Perkins more room to play with storytelling techniques, as well as the time to do the research necessary to capture the era. His work on this is just stunning to look at.

What was the balance of telling a story true to the time period, but also making it modern for today's audience?

The idea of balance is built around the parallels between the 1930s and now. There are some clear differences, but at the same time, enough in common that aspects of this story will definitely relate to things we're seeing and experiencing now.



DON'T MISS *THE BAT-MAN: FIRST KNIGHT* #1, ON SALE THIS MARCH!

DC BLACK LABEL

AGES 17+

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